

# Fire Sweeps Eaton Plant; Loss Is Heavy

Fire that swept the Douglas-Eaton Manufacturing Company at Eaton shortly after 9 o'clock yesterday morning caused between \$15,000 and \$20,000 damage. The fire was started by a spark from an acetelyne welding torch, according to one of the factory officials.

The Eaton fire department and a truck from the Muncie Central station battled the blaze for nearly two hours before getting it under control. Guards from the prisoner of war camp nearby aided materially in saving the building. Two soldiers and Arthur Friedemaker were removed to the hospital at the camp and were given first aid treatment by army doctors, after they were overcome by smoke.

C. Ray Mitchell of the company, said the fire started in the middle of the structure and spread both ways, destroying or damaging

nearly all the raw materials in the building. The new structure, employing some twenty persons, was dedicated on October 1, but was not completed. Plans were made to move the machinery into the building today. The old plant was located on West Harris street and manufactured hassocks.

Plant officials commended prison guards for their prompt action and aid. Max Miller and James Fisher are also associated with Mr. Mitchell in the company.

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